

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Donald J. Palmer et al.

Serial No.: 09/685,847

Filed: October 10, 2000

Docket No.: 10003972-1

Title: INTERNET PRINT MANAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH PRINT JOB DISTRIBUTION**REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed June 16, 2004, in which claims 1-40 were rejected. With this amendment, claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice and claims 1-9, 11-19, and 33 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-9 and 11-40, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, and 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hower, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,467,434. Claims 2, 21, 23, 26, 29, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hower in view of Keane et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,650,433.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method of managing print services includes presenting the print provider with a print provider interface, and registering the print services provided by the print provider with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface and the network communication link. In addition, independent claim 19 has been amended to clarify that the system for managing print services includes a print provider interface communicated with the print managing system controller, wherein the print services provided by the print provider are registered with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface.

With respect to the Hower, Jr. et al. and Keane et al. patents, neither of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method of managing print services, as claimed in amended independent claim 1, nor a system for managing print services, as claimed in amended independent claim 19.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 19 are each patentably distinct from the Hower, Jr. et al. and Keane et al. patents and, therefore, are in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-9, 11-15, and 17-18 further define patentably distinct claim 1, and dependent claims 20-38 and 40 further define patentably distinct claim 19, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-9, 11-15, and 17-18 and dependent claims 20-38 and 40 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-15, 17-20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28,

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30, 31, 33, 35-38, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 2, 21, 23, 26, 29, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-38, and 40 be allowed.

With this Amendment, claims 16 and 39 have been amended and rewritten in independent form such that rewritten independent claim 16 includes automatically distributing the job ticket for the print job to the print provider via the network communication link if the print managing system controller determines that the print provider has the print services to fulfill the print job, and redistributing the job ticket for the print job to another print provider having print services to fulfill the print job when the print provider is unable to fulfill the print job, and rewritten independent claim 39 includes a print managing system controller wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to automatically distribute the job ticket for the print job to the print provider if the print managing system controller determines that the print provider has the print services to fulfill the print job, and wherein the print managing system controller is adapted to redistribute the job ticket for the print job to another print provider having print services to fulfill the print job when the print provider is unable to fulfill the print job.

With respect to the Hower, Jr. et al. patent, this patent does not teach or suggest a method of managing print services, as claimed in rewritten independent claim 16, nor a system for managing print services, as claimed in rewritten independent claim 39.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that rewritten independent claims 16 and 39 are each patentably distinct from the Hower, Jr. et al. patent and, therefore, are in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 16 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 16 and 39 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-9 and 11-40 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either James R. McDaniel at Telephone No. (208) 396-4095, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

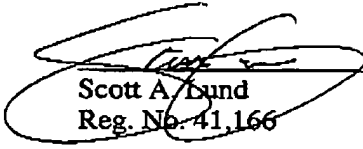
Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Palmer et al.,

By their attorneys,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, PLLC
Fifth Street Towers, Suite 2250
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 573-2006
Facsimile: (612) 573-2005

Date: Sept. 16, 2004
SAL:jan


Scott A. Lund
Reg. No. 41,166

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 16TH day of September, 2004.

By 
Name: Scott A. Lund